

## ITALIANS SAFE IN HILLS OF AUSTRIA

Invaders Have Seized Impregnable Positions from Enemy.

### CAN FORTIFY MOUNTAINS

Work of Small Part of Army Has Gained This Advantage, Writes Eyewitness.

By W. T. MASSEY.

(Special Correspondent of The Washington Herald.) In the Zillertal Valley, Aug. 29.—During the past few days I have been permitted to visit many places on the northwestern line between Austria and Italy and on about 175 miles of the frontier along the mountain chain chosen by the Austrians because of its natural strength.

One was struck by the enormous advantage Italy has secured in this war area.

Pursuing from the start a vigorous and well calculated offensive, the Italian army has won territory of inestimable worth to the Austrians and, by reason of her conquests, Italy's position is now immeasurably superior to what it was at the opening of the campaign.

Can Fortify Hills. At some points on the line I have been fully ten miles into what was Austria before the end of May and in other districts the advance has been quite as substantial. There is scarcely a kilometer of the whole of this section of the frontier, on which the Austrians retain a hold.

The importance of this advantage lies not so much in the depth of the country gained as in the character of the terrain. The beautiful valleys in Trentino are all narrow and dominated by hills which enterprising troops can make almost impregnable. To hold these hills only a few battalions and batteries are necessary. These could put back large armies and from almost every mountain side the Italians could see the valley within the field of fire.

Whether the Austrians wrongly calculated that Italy was not ready to advance or whether she underestimated the dash of the Italian troops the Austrians have been forced back and, in yielding, had to give up a deep band of rugged country which she herself had acquired because of its enormous military value.

The work of a comparatively small section of the Italian army has secured the inviolability of this section of the frontier and it seems safe to prophesy that no direct attack will succeed in pushing the Italians back. It is doubtful if any such attempt will be made.

## MISS STRACHAN ATTACKS EDUCATIONAL ASSOCIATION

By MABEL HERBERT URNAER.

Originator of "The Married Life of Helen and Warren," Author of "The Journal of a Neglected Wife," "The Woman Alone," Etc.

A Wet Night at Coney Island Brings Discomfort and Ruffled Tempers.

(Copyright, 1915.)

This series is a continuation of "The Married Life of Helen and Warren," "The Journal of a Neglected Wife," "The Woman Alone," Etc.

At the next stall fried soft-shell crabs were necked in a row under a smoky glass case. A stand-up counter with a pile of thick white plates and a huge sign "Best Fried Crabs on the Island, 15c."

Helen held her breath at the smell of stale grease. The adjacent masses of food were less offensive. A mass of yellow taffy gleamed on the rattling candy puller.

"Here you are, five cents an ear!" shouted the man beside a kettle of boiling corn. "Piping hot!"

"Get your picture taken in an automobile! Postcard pictures while you wait, only a dime—ten cents!" cried the Barker before an open gallery lit with weird blue-tinting light.

"Only a shower," announced Warren. "Let's go in here till it's over."

Flaming colored posters of a monster spouting whale and a man-eating shark about to devour its naked victim flanked the ticket window.

"Only whale in captivity," read the sign. "Admission 15c."

"Oh, a stuffed whale!" exclaimed Helen as they entered.

"What'd you expect for five cents?"

At the next platform Helen caught her breath with a sick thrill of pity and horror. Propped upon a cushion was the "armless and legless wonder"—a mere human trunk with the head of an elderly man. It was a well-shaped head with gray hair and beard and a certain grotesque dignity.

His eyes, with their tortured look, met Helen's. She drew back distressfully. He seemed to stare at her with intense deformity.

"Oh, dear, let's go—it's all too gruesome," with a shuddering glance at the other platform on which were exhibited other malformations.

"All right, I've had enough. Let's dig up something more cheerful!"

It was still raining. Helen clung to Warren in the jostling, umbrella-plashed crowd, still haunted by that pitiful head on that limber body.

Earlier on was the dazlingly lit entrance to Luna Park. Warren bought admission for the blonde, gum-chewing lady in the gilded chariot.

The festooned lights and glittering towers glowed through the rain, but most of the attractions were closed.

The performers and showmen stood around their ticket windows, staring gloomily out at the downpour.

The coasters, scenic railways and all the "thrillers" were frankly dark. Even if the rain held up, the wet, slippery tracks would make the swooping cars too dangerous.

One place showed signs of life, but it turned out to be an exhibition of "human incubators," "Incubators With Live Infants!"

"Dear, we can go in there."

"We can," grimly, "but we won't. This looks something like."

De Milo's "Vision of Art," read the billboard. "Latest European Novelty."

"Anything doing?" called Warren, to the silent, discouraged Barker.

"Step in, sir, we'll give the show if we can get two more."

"Here comes a couple, nab 'em," as two women hurried along under a lowered umbrella, their skirts held almost to their knees.

The Barker exhorted loudly, but they passed on unheeding.

"Oh, come on, let's have a drink and go home," growled Warren disgusted. "We're blithering idiots to paddle around here in the rain."

Outside, along the "Bowery," the shooting galleries, ring-throwing, ball-rolling chances were deserted, in spite of the hoarse shoutings of their attendants. But the sea air makes even a wet crowd a hungry crowd, and the

## THE MARRIED LIFE OF HELEN AND WARREN

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The huge mounted hide filled the tent. The stuffed shark, a tank of live alligators, and an unhappy-looking turtle completed the exhibit.

"You see before you the largest whale ever exhibited," began the showman pompously. "Killed near Tampa, Fla., June, 1912. Measures seventy feet and weighed five tons. Now if you'll just stoop down and step inside—you can say you've been further inside a whale than Jonah ever was!"

"He's great," grinned Warren, crawling into the whale's stomach.

Inside the monster frame was supported by rough board beams, and lit with electric bulbs.

"The real thing, all right. No fake about this," Warren nodded with his cane the thick hide, still oozing oil in spite of the tar covering.

"Careful, lady, don't get tar on your dress," as they crawled out. "Now notice these mouth bristles—from these we make combs, brushes, riding whips," launching into his spiel on the by-products of the whale.

"He's the old-time showman," chuckled Warren, when he raised his umbrella outside. "Not many of 'em left. Now here."

"The House of a Thousand Wonders!" glared a sign ahead. "The Three-legged Man! The Armless and Legless Wonder! Fleurette! Princess Paul!"

Wonder show, eh? Come on, might as well get out of this rain."

Inside a gaping crowd surrounded each platform. On the first was enthroned Fleurette, the fat woman, staring vacantly into space.

Her soiled, red satin, low-necked bodice, her bloated knees, a rhinestone necklace and bracelets adorned the bulging fat of her bare arms and neck. Her pudgy fingers glittered with rings. Her greasy, black hair bristled with ornaments. Her elephantine legs were encased in pink cotton tights.

"Airy, fairy and sylphlike—I don't think," grinned Warren passing on.

But Helen glanced back with a sort of horrible fascination. There was a curious animal look in that puffly face and small beady eyes.

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## CONQUEROR OF RUSSIA'S LAST STRONGHOLD

By PROF. FAREZ.

Official British co-writer with the Russian army.

London, Aug. 29.—In the last few days the tenor of Russia's position has slackened perceptibly. Every one has become more at ease. For myself, who followed the military and political position very closely, I go so far as to say that the crisis is over.

From the time when the enemy began his great thrust in southwest Galicia, I am quite certain, he was aiming simply at one thing. He was trying to bring Russia to herself from her allies. If he could not do that he could do nothing on the eastern side.

The idea of a Russian Russia or of forcing a peace on Russia was always, from the start, ridiculous. Russia could never be compelled to make peace; she could only be induced to desire it. For this object there was a perfectly clear program of which every detail soon became apparent.

Turning Point Reached. Of course the Russian army had to be beaten and driven back with as many losses as possible, but above all Russia was to be persuaded that her western allies could do nothing for her. Poland was to be won and then a liberal peace was to be offered Russia.

The Germans have had their successes. They have made their point; they have failed and they know it. The turning point in the whole process.

To my mind the most important fact of the last week was the announcement made by M. Sazonoff, in Petrograd, M. Sazonoff is a very quiet man and his simple straightforwardness is one of the strongest reasons for his confidence which his country places in him. His announcement, which had not a word that could be dispensed with, amounted to this:

"That the German successes had been accompanied by repeated negotiations for peace, which Russia had refused unconditionally, whenever they were renewed they would be refused again."

Military Success Secondary. But this meant the collapse of all that Germany has been playing for; military success was secondary.

We are approaching the time when the Russian roads will break up. The country through which the Germans will have to advance is at first a marshy plain, and later on a plateau broken with innumerable cross gullies, in which the grand army of Napoleon, in spite of the efforts of modern engineering, was unable to pass.

Motor transit, one of the glories of the advance German army, will be useless; not only that, but the heavy guns, which will have to be left behind.

Meanwhile, one thing is clear, I was with the retreating Russian army from the Carpathians to the Russian frontier, and its morale is not altered in the slightest by the terrible order and artillery to which it was subjected day after day.

The Germans, and still more, the Austrians, both officers and men, were worn out both strength and spirit during this interminable advance.

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